

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03845 290630Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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-----000999 291456Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0960

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3845

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENT FOR U.S.-AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS MUTUAL ASSIS-
TANCE IN EMERGENCIES

1. FOR SOME YEARS THERE HAS BEEN AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS IN SINGAPORE FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY WHICH DISRUPTS THE OPERATIONS OF ONE OR THE OTHER MISSIONS. THE UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SHOULD THE U.S. OR THE AUSTRALIAN CHANCERY BE RENDERED UNTENABLE AS A RESULT OF A TERRORIST ATTACK OR SIMILAR SUDDEN ACTION, THE AFFECTED MISSION WOULD TRANSFER ITS MOST ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY-RELATED OPERATIONS TEMPORARILY TO THE CHANCERY OF THE OTHER MISSION. THE HOST MISSION IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WOULD PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE AFFECTED MISSION AND CANBERRA OR WASHINGTON, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

2. THE PERSONNEL NOW AT THIS EMBASSY ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO WHEN AND HOW THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, IT IS AN ORAL UNDERSTANDING, NOT COMMITTED TO WRITING. IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT, PRESUMABLY BETWEEN THE CHIEFS OF THE RESPECTIVE MISSIONS, SOME YEARS AGO.

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3. THE UNDERSTANDING SEEMS TO US A SENSIBLE ONE, AND WE WOULD PROPOSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN OFFER SHOULD A TERRORIST SEIZURE OR SIMILAR SUDDEN EMERGENCY PUT OUR CHANCERY OUT OF COMMISSION. WE WOULD PROPOSE ALSO TO PROVIDE THE SAME ASSISTANCE TO THE AUSTRALIANS SHOULD THEY BE THE VICTIMIZED PARTY.

4. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE
DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION
IN SINGAPORE, ADDRESSED TO THE DCM:
QUOTE: DEAR ED, WE HAVE SPOKEN BEFORE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS
BETWEEN OUR TWO MISSIONS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
IN CANBERRA HAS NOW MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EMERGENCY TELEPHONE
NUMBER WHICH IS MANNED 24 HOURS A DAY AND TO BE USED ONLY FOR
THE NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS IN MISSIONS OVER-
SEAS. THE NUMBER IS CANBERRA 61-2000. I WOULD BE GLAD IF YOU
WOULD INFORM THE RELEVANT MEMBERS OF YOUR MISSION OF THIS
NUMBER IN CASE IT SHOULD EVER BE NECESSARY. UNQUOTE.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS NO OBJECTION TO THIS INFORMAL
ARRANGEMENT, WE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE THE AUSTRALIAN
MISSION A SIMILAR TELEPHONE NUMBER IN WASHINGTON WHICH COULD
BE USED IN AN EMERGENCY OF THE TYPE FORESEEN. COULD THE
DEPARTMENT PROVIDE SUCH A NUMBER TO BE PASSED TO THE FEW
SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION WHO ARE
FAMILIAR WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING?
KNEIP

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